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Statement from Rep. Gary Miller on House Passage of Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization

Rancho Cucamonga, CA – Today, the House of Representatives passed S.47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Rep. Miller has issued the following statement regarding today's vote:

"I am pleased that the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which strengthens the tools available to aid law enforcement in combating human trafficking, domestic abuse and sexual violence, was passed today by my colleagues in the House of Representatives. This legislative victory sends a strong message that enough is enough when considering the horrific and devastating effects of domestic violence and human trafficking inflicted on some of our most vulnerable citizens.

While I regret that I was unable to vote for the reauthorization due to a family matter that required me to return home prior to the House vote, I am glad it is now headed to the President's desk for his signature to ensure that we can continue our nation's efforts to prevent violence in our communities and bring the criminals responsible for these heinous acts to justice. I hope that the President will sign this critical legislation without delay.

Human trafficking, which is an important target of this legislation, is one of the worst offenses against human dignity today. Sadly the horrors of this deplorable practice are all too real here in San Bernardino County. In 2012, San Bernardino County experienced 380 cases of pimping, pandering and prostitution related cases with a considerable amount of those cases directly originating from the deplorable practice of human trafficking. This must stop now.

I want my constituents to know that public safety – including eliminating the scourge of human trafficking, sexual violence and domestic abuse in our communities – and ensuring that survivors of these terrible crimes have access to treatment, counseling, legal assistance and other vital support services are a top priority of mine. I am currently meeting with local officials and residents to get their input on how we can make our neighborhoods safer."

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